

Appl. No. 10/771,487

Amdt. Dated Sep. 20, 2004

Reply to Office Action of Jun. 18, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cable assembly comprising:

a cable including a plurality of lines each including a pair of signal conductors and a ground conductor;

a printed circuit board defining opposite top and bottom surfaces with a plurality of signal and ground conductive pads thereon, the signal conductors being fixed to the corresponding signal conductive pads, respectively;

a plurality of shielding metallic plates located between every two adjacent ~~two~~ lines, respectively, for isolation, each of said shielding plates including at least one front finger located above the printed circuit board and fixed to the corresponding ground conductive pad on the printed circuit board, and a rear body portion extending rearwardly from the finger and behind the printed circuit board; wherein

each of said shielding plates is not fixed to any portions of the two neighboring lines except the ground conductor of only one of said two neighboring lines.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said signal conductive pads and said ground conductive pads are alternately arranged ~~along one line~~ in a row on each of said top and bottom surfaces.

Claim 3 (original): The assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein front end of the signal conductors of the lines and the front fingers of the shielding plates are aligned with one another in a lateral direction perpendicular to a front-to-back direction of the printed circuit board.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A cable assembly comprising:

Appl. No. 10/771,487

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a cable including a plurality of lines each including a pair of signal conductors and a ground conductor;

a spacer integrally connected to front portions of the lines to have said lines in an equidistant manner mutually;

a printed circuit board defining opposite top and bottom surfaces with a plurality of signal and ground conductive pads thereon, the signal conductors being fixed to the corresponding signal conductive pads, respectively;

a plurality of shielding metallic plates located between every two adjacent ~~two~~ lines, respectively, for isolation, each of said shielding plates including at least one front finger located above the printed circuit board and fixed to the corresponding ground conductive pad on the printed circuit board, and a rear body portion extending rearwardly from the finger and behind the printed circuit board; wherein

the spacer is spatially located behind the printed circuit board, and each of said shielding plates is fully exposed outside of said spacer and mainly held by the printed circuit without ~~involvement~~ contacting ~~with~~ said spacer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said signal conductive pads and said ground conductive pads are alternately arranged ~~along one line~~ in a row on each of said top and bottom surfaces.

Claim 6 (original): The assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein front end of the signal conductors of the lines and the front fingers of the shielding plates are aligned with one another in a lateral direction perpendicular to a front-to-back direction of the printed circuit board.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of making a cable connector assembly, comprising steps of:

Appl. No. 10/771,487

Amdt. Dated Sep. 20, 2004

Reply to Office Action of Jun. 18, 2004

providing a cable with a plurality of lines each including a pair of signal conductors and a ground conductor;

providing a printed circuit board with opposite top and bottom surfaces having a plurality of signal and ground conductive pads thereon;

fixing the signal conductors to the corresponding signal conductive pads, respectively;

providing a plurality of shielding metallic plates between every two adjacent ~~two~~ lines, respectively, for isolation, each of said shielding plates including at least one front finger located above the printed circuit board and, and a rear body portion extending rearwardly from the finger;

fixing the fingers to the ground conductive pads on the printed circuit board, respectively, and leaving the body portions disposed behind the printed circuit board; and

fixing the ground conductor of each of said lines to the corresponding shielding plate; wherein

each of said shielding plates is not fixed to any portions of the ~~two~~ neighboring lines except the ground conductor of only one of said ~~two~~ neighboring lines.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein said signal conductive pads and said ground conductive pads are alternately arranged along one line in a row on each of said top and bottom surfaces.

Claim 9 (original): The assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein front end of the signal conductors of the lines and the front fingers of the shielding plates are aligned with one another in a lateral direction perpendicular to a front-to-back direction of the printed circuit board.

Appl. No. 10/771,487  
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Claim 10 (new): An electrical connector, comprising:  
a printed circuit board having a first edge and a second edge;  
a plurality of signal and ground conductive pads alternatively arranged along the second edge;  
a connector body assembled to the first edge of the printed circuit board;  
a plurality of shielding plates each connected to a corresponding ground pad in the second edge by at least one finger extending from the shielding plate;  
and  
wherein the printed circuit board does not include an undercut extending from the second edge for receiving the shielding plate.

Claim 11 (new): The electrical connector as defined in claim 10 further comprises a cable having a plurality of lines therein, the lines and the shielding plates arranged along the second edge of the printed circuit board in an alternate manner.

Claim 12 (new): The assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein each line of the cable comprises a pair of signal conductors connected to corresponding signal pads on second edge of the printed circuit board and a grounding conductor electrically connected with a corresponding shielding plate.